

Mercy comes to town

Luke 10:25-37

By pastor Ken Keyte

28th May 2017

1

Luke 10:33-37

But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him.

³⁵ The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

³⁶ "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

³⁷ The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

I'm going to assume that you know *The Parable of the Good Samaritan* very well. I read it in full a couple of Sundays ago, so I'm not going to *pick up the story* at the bit *just after* the *Priest* and then the *Levite* have walked on by the injured victim of a highway robbery *on Jericho Road*.

But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him.

³⁵ The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

³⁶ "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

³⁷ The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Two Sundays ago, I began a series called *The Jericho Rd*, to help us with the *fourth* of our *five church emphases* for the year: *Unconditional, inclusive love for others*.

These emphases come from 2 Tim 1:6-7 which we believe God has brought to our attention *that we may be a church who-fans into flame the gifts God has given us. For God has not given us a spirit of timidity but a spirit of, power, of love and of self discipline"*

The parable of the good Samaritan is how Jesus taught his disciples what the *Spirit of love* that God has given us looks like *in practice*.

According to *Jesus*, what we do on *Jericho Rd* (or *Mercy Street* as I like to call it) serves as a kind of *proof test*, proving whether we *deserve eternal life*, (which we don't!) proving whether we *love our neighbour*, (which we must!) and proving *whether Christ lives in us* (which he can!)

That's what we learned from *The Parable of Jericho Rd* two Sundays ago.

Today we're going to be looking at what this parable teaches us about *being human*.

Nobody wants to be described as *inhumane* do they? Much better to be called *humane*, isn't it- which is just another way of saying: *being human*.

My favourite rock band U2 sing a song that goes: "*When love comes to town I'm gonna jump that train, when love comes to town I'm catch that flame*" 2



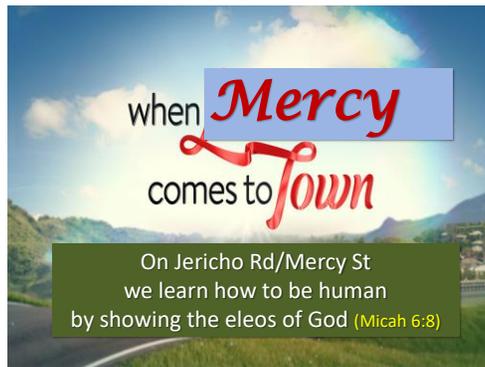
Since the parable of the Good Samaritan teaches us that *loving your neighbour* involves *showing mercy* to your neighbour, the song could just as easily go:

*When mercy comes to town I'm gonna jump that train,
when mercy comes to town I'm gonna catch that flame!"*

What happens on Jericho Rd *when mercy comes to town* differentiates those who act *humanely toward others* from those who *don't!*

**On Jericho Rd / Mercy St we learn how to be human
by showing the eleos of God**

3



We know God made humans (both men and women) *in his own image* didn't he? Genesis 1:27 tells us that.

We also know that God is a *merciful God*, don't we? *'For the LORD your God is a merciful God;...'* Deut. 4:31 tells us that.

When the prophet Micah wrote:

"[God] has shown you oh human what is good...", the Hebrew word he uses for human is *Adaam*, (same word as Adam in Genesis 1).

So *Micah* is giving an instruction here for *how to be human* as God intended us to be:

"And what does the LORD require of you? (writes Michah):

"...to act justly and to *love mercy* and to walk humbly in the Lord", (6:8)

4



My daughter Ashley has a dog named Terry (because she's a fox terrier-cross). Terry is an energetic, adorable little dog that we got from the pound three years ago and we love very much. Each night when Ashley puts Terry to bed Terry gives Ashley a big sloppy lick on the face!

Terry also loves going for a morning run with me. Whenever Terry sees me in my running gear she goes berserk with excitement.

But what Terry loves even more than running with me is *chasing rabbits!*

I often run through an orchard off n.o. 3 Road with Terry, but as soon as she spots a rabbit, off she takes after it at top speed, yapping away with excitement.

I've wondered what our adorable little dog Terry, would do if she ever caught one. Maybe give it a big sloppy lick on the face like she does Ashley at bed time? Then one day I found out!

This time when Terry took off after the rabbit she didn't come back like she usually does after she's given up the chase. But I could hear her yapping excitedly up one of the orchard rows. So I ran over to see what was going on.

There lying on the ground in front of her was a cute little -
dead rabbit!

Our adorable little dog Terry that licks Ashley good night at
bed time- *is a killer!*

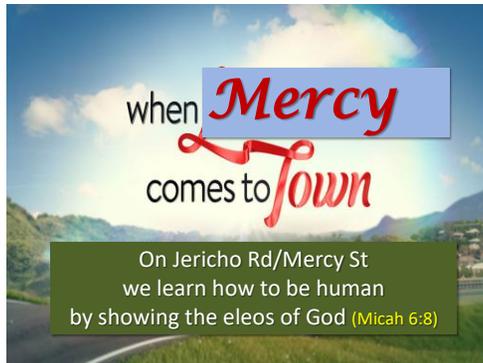
Ashley doesn't like me letting Terry chase after rabbits
anymore!

When a *human* deliberately *injures or kills* another human (like the
terrorist suicide bombing in Manchester last week) we say they are
inhumane.

But when a *dog kills a rabbit*, (no matter how domesticated the dog
is) it's not being *inhumane* nor is it even being *un-canine*,
it's just *being a dog* because God made dogs to be *canine*
predators!

Humans however he made for a *different purpose*.
He made *us* and *only us humans* as *image bearers* of God!

5



On Jericho Road when the *Priest* and the *Levite* passed by on the
other side of the road we see examples of being *inhumane*
because they chose *not to show mercy* to someone in need.

On Jericho Road when the *Samaritan* stops to *administer mercy* to
the injured traveler we see an example of *being human!*

The *Greek word for mercy* used throughout the New Testament is
eleos.

On *Jericho Road* we learn that to *be human* is to show the *eleos* of
God to someone in need.

So *how human are you?*
How human am I?

Let's bring it closer to home.

Whenever we walk or drive along *not Jericho Rd* (because that's a
long way away) but *Jelicho Road* that most of us drove along this
morning to get here. And we pass by someone in need- (like the
solo Mum in Te Puke Camping Ground raising her child in a cold
damp caravan), or the *elderly lady* sitting out her final days staring
at a TV screen in *Te Puke Country Lodge*).

Whenever we pass by *someone in need* on Jellico Road, such as
these, we have an opportunity to be *human or inhuman*
by displaying the *eleos of God*, or *not!*

*When mercy comes to town I'm gonna jump that train,
when mercy comes to town I'm gonna catch that flame!"*

**On Jericho Rd / Mercy St we learn how to
meet needs through deeds**

6



But *how come* people have needs in the *first place?*

Genesis 2 & 3 shows us that God made the very first human beings with *physical, social, psychological and spiritual needs* that were supplied by being in a *harmonious relationship* with God, with *each other* and with *creation*.

[Russian dolls illustration]

But when *Adam & Eve* decided to meet a *physical need* by eating something that was *forbidden by God*, they also attempted to meet a *social and psychological* need by trying to *become like God* in determining *good and evil for themselves!*

And *ever since then*, everything in the *physical, social, psychological and spiritual* dimensions of life has been a *damaged version* of how God originally intended things to be!

Take for example the *injured man* lying half dead on the side of Jericho Rd.

Why had the robbers *attacked him* and *stolen* his possessions?

Although the parable doesn't *tell us why*, *nothing much has changed in 2000 years!*

Like the *highway robbery in Paengaroa last week* that left a shopkeeper beaten up after he'd given the intruders everything they wanted,

the *route-cause* of any form of *crime* is an attempt to meet either a *physical, social, psychological, or spiritual need*,

at the *expense* of someone else.

Leaving a *victim* in need!

Mercy, is shown when *such needs* are met through *deeds*.

Let's take a *closer look* at the *parable of the good Samaritan*.

Luke 10:33-35

But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him.

³⁵ The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

The injured man was lying on the side of the road where he was ignored by everyone passing by *until* the Samaritan *came over to help him*.

- So what was the first need that was met? *physical, social, psychological or spiritual?*" [Social]

The Samaritan *bandaged his wounds, poured on oil and wine to clean and protect the wounds*.

- What need was he meeting by doing this? [physical- medical care]

After transporting him to an inn where he could be cared for, the Samaritan gave two silver coins to the innkeeper and told him to look after him and when he returned he would reimburse any further expense.

- What need did he meet by doing that? [*physical*- paid for his food and shelter; *psychological*- by removing any financial stress about how it would be paid for; *social* by following up to see how he was doing]

Remember Jesus told this parable to answer the question *what must I do to inherit eternal life?*

- So what need did Jesus meet by telling this parable? [*spiritual* - he told the parable to show how *no-one deserves eternal life* because we *all fail to love our neighbour as ourself*, therefore *everyone* is dependant upon *the mercy of God in Jesus Christ* for eternal life!]

But our *evangelical faith* tends to *bias us* a towards wanting to *meet the spiritual needs* of people without being as *concerned* about their *physical, social, and psychological needs*.

Yet when the Samaritan came up to the injured man lying on the side of the road- *do you think at that point the injured man was interested in hearing the gospel expounded to him?*

However after *experiencing the eleos of God* through having his *needs met* by the *Samaritan's deeds*, you can be sure he was in a much more *receptive state* to hear how *God's mercy shown* through Jesus had motivated the Samaritan to *stop and help!*

*When mercy comes to town I'm gonna jump that train,
when mercy comes to town I'm gonna catch that flame!"*

On Jericho Rd / Mercy St people experience the eleos of God in Jesus

8



Can you think of an instance when you've had either a *physical, social, psychological or spiritual* need met by someone, and *through that* need being met you've experienced the *eleos of God* in a *Jesus-like way?*

The instance that springs to my mind, was as a young teenager when my Dad was killed in an aircraft accident early morning of the Masterton Airshow.

Because I'd flown over to Masterton with my Dad, I was now stuck at the Masterton hospital where they'd taken me (even though I hadn't been in the accident and was physically OK!). But of course inside *I wasn't OK!*

I would've spent the whole day sitting on a hospital bed all by myself waiting for my transport back home to Ohakea where we lived.

If it wasn't for a nurse who realised that sitting on a hospital bed was no place for a teenage boy who'd just lost his Dad in an aircraft accident!
So she phoned an off duty nurse (who turned out to be about my Mum's age) who came and picked me up and took me back to her home where she lived with her special needs adult son.

She fed me breakfast, she talked to me and checked in on me every now and again, she looked after me throughout the day, till finally it was time to be picked up for the airforce flight that would take me back home to Ohakea.

I don't even know the ladies name, but *I do remember* that on that *worst ever day in my life*, I experienced the *eleos-mercy of God*, conveyed through the *mercy* this motherly off duty nurse had *shown me*.

There are all kinds of opportunities for people to experience the *eleos-mercy of God* in a *Jesus-like ways* through *us!*

I was *flicking through the Weekend Sun* the other day when my attention was caught by this cute photo and headline:
Small girl with a big heart.

9



The article begins.

“Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for all the blessings you gave us.” It's a little prayer uttered by seven-year-old Emma Mischewski when she's being driven to school every day. *“And I pray for the homeless that they may find shelter and I pray they won't get sick.”*

However, the Bethlehem schoolgirl isn't depending solely on divine assistance for the homeless and needy. She is mucking in, running a roadside stand selling feijoas to passersby....

When Emma saw a homeless person in downtown Tauranga, she was troubled by what she saw. *“He looked homeless, he looked sad and didn't have very nice clothes.”*

The family's two feijoa trees were in full fruit so Emma decided to put them to good use by setting up a fruit stall to raise funds for helping the homeless...

But then we wondered *“how many more people we could impact?”* It seems like many people! Emma is now making up care packs for the homeless and needy – one for men and one for women. Bags containing a toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, deodorant, sanitary aids, chapstick, wipes and tissues. *“Even our own church, Tauranga Central Baptist, has people knocking on the door in need of help”* says her Mum Helen.

So what started as a little girl's feijoa fruit stand has grown into a small suburban not-for-profit with a Facebook page.

Emma, also got a certificate of merit from her school for her philanthropy. *“It was a ‘Reflecting God's Love’ certificate,”* says Emma. *“That made me pretty happy.”*

On Jericho Rd (or Mercy St) people experience the *eleos-mercy of God in Jesus-like ways* through people like the *Good Samaritan*, like the *motherly nurse who looked after me*, like *Emma Mischewski*, people like *you and me*.

*When mercy comes to town I'm gonna jump that train,
when mercy comes to town I'm gonna catch that flame!”*

Will you?